

## Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., Director and State Health Officer

**Governor Dave Freudenthal** 

April 5, 2010

Ref: 10-115-CN

Dear Child Waiver Participants, Parents, and Guardians:

In the fall 2009, the Developmental Disabilities Division (Division) announced we were making significant changes to the Adult Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, Child DD Waiver, and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver. The changes were being made to achieve specific outcomes for participants and families, including adding the option to self-direct services, adding services that may better meet participants' needs, and removing the "aging out" situation. The changes included beginning a new Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver and ending the Child DD Waiver and the Adult DD Waiver effective July 1, 2010. These changes were contingent upon approval of the new waivers by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by early spring so the Division could successfully implement the new waivers by July 1, 2010.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has informed the Division that the Support Options Waiver and Comprehensive Waiver will not receive approval within the required timeframe for the Division to implement these changes effectively and with the least amount of impact on participants, families, and providers. Therefore, the Division has made the decision to incorporate many of the proposed changes by renewing the Child DD Waiver and amending the current Adult DD and Acquired Brain Injury Waivers, effective July 1, 2010. The Division will not move forward with the Support Options Waiver or the Comprehensive Waiver at this time.

Below is specific information on how this change will impact you as a participant, family member, or guardian.

- The Child DD Waiver will offer all the same services currently in the waiver.
- You will not be required to transition to a new waiver unless you will be turning 21 years of age and will need to apply for the Adult DD or ABI Waiver.
- The Child DD Waiver will offer new services designed to better meet participants and families' needs, including Supported Employment and Companion Services for participants 18 through 20 years of age and Child Habilitation Services.
- The Child DD Waiver will include the option to self-direct Support Services, including Respite, Personal Care, Child Habilitation Services, Residential Habilitation Training and Supported Employment, Supported Living and Companion Services (available to participants 18 to 20 years old).
- For the Fiscal Year 2011, the Individually Budgeted Amount will be determined by the historical annual plan units, multiplied by the posted service rates, minus one time costs.
- Respite services cannot be provided during regular school hours or when parents are working (school hours may vary by school district). The new services of Companion and Child Habilitation can help with services when parents are working.

- Respite services will have a 2500 unit cap.
- Home-based workers will only be able to provide services if they are working under one of the Financial Management Systems; Agency with Choice or Public Partnerships, LLC. A home-based worker is a certified provider who provides waiver services in the participant's/guardian's home and under the participant's/guardian's direction. Division staff will be contacting parents/guardians if they have providers on the plan of care that are considered home-based workers. You will be contacted by a Division staff in May or June of this year to give direction on how to keep that provider working with your child. Families with children under the age of 12 will have to pay the basic cost of child care unrelated to a child's disability.

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- Day Habilitation will not be offered for participants 18-20 years old.
- Since there will continue to be separate waivers for children and adults, children reaching the age of 21 will need to apply for Adult DD Waiver. However, the Division is committed to funding those individuals who are aging out of the children's waiver.

Participants and families can continue receiving the same services they are currently receiving. However, the new services may better meet your needs. The new services are identified below:

- Child Habilitation (to be used as a more appropriate service to families during work hours rather than respite)
- Companion Services (available to those 18-20 years of age and may be used in place of services previously provided as personal care or respite)
- Supported Living (for participants 18-20 years of age that want to live on their own with some supports)
- Supported Employment (available to those 18-20 years of age)
- Independent Support Broker (Self-Direction only)
- Agency with Choice (Self-Direction only)
- Option of self-directing Respite, Personal Care, Residential Habilitation Training, Children's Habilitation Service, and Companion Services, Supported Living, or Supported Employment (available to those 18-20 years old).
- Individual Directed Goods and Services (Self-direction with budget authority only)
- Unpaid Caregiver Training and Education (Self-direction with budget authority only)

The renewed Child DD waiver will begin July 1, 2010. If you would like to self-direct your services (home-based workers will only be available through self-direction) or replace an existing service with a new service, this can be done any time after July 1, 2010, through a team meeting and modification to the individual plan of care.

All of the changes listed above allow the Division to accomplish many of the outcomes we were trying to achieve by starting the Support Options and Comprehensive Waivers, including the addition of new services, adding self direction, and addressing the home-based worker issues.

The Division has scheduled two informational webinars to give further information to participants, family members, and guardians of the changes mentioned in this letter. There is no cost to attend. The following dates and times will be available for the webinar trainings:

## April 15, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat for this session at:

https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register//595527962

OR

April 16, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat for this session at: <a href="https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register//">https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register//</a> 217583290

The webinar shows the presentation on your computer screen, but you must also call in to 877-278-8686, PIN number 252484, in order to hear the audio. If you do not pre-register for the webinar, you will not be able to access the presentation.

If you are interested in receiving more information on self-directing services, Public Partnerships, LLC will be in Wyoming during the month of May to enroll participants who want to self-direct and use the Fiscal/Employee Financial Management Service. The dates, times and locations are being finalized and will be notified by mail as soon as they are scheduled.

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We hope that you will join us for the informational webinar to learn more about the renewal of the Child DD Waiver and the amendments to the Adult DD and ABI waivers. If you would like to contact the Division regarding the changes, please contact our Cheyenne office at (800) 510-0280 or one of the Division staff members listed below.

Name	Phone	E-mail
Beverly Swistowicz, Participant Support	(307) 777-3321	beverly.swistowicz@health.wyo.gov
Manager		
Terry Walling, Training Manager	(307) 777-6775	terry.walling@health.wyo.gov
Denise Murphy, Provider Support Specialist	(307) 472-2950	denise.murphy@health.wyo.gov

Sincerely,

Chris Newman, Administrator Developmental Disabilities Division Wyoming Department of Health